

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MIDDLETON CHENEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Eleventh Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the year ending December 31st, 1913, which varies little from those presented on past occasions. The Natural and Social conditions in this district necessarily vary very slightly from year to year, and I have no fresh additions to make in connection with them.

Agricultural Still remains the only industry, and as far as I can ascertain continues to support a population which has not decreased during the past year. My report required a statement on various subjects which it will be convenient to make seriatim.

The Water Supply is throughout satisfactory and no repairs have been found necessary.

The Sewerage and Drainage of the district have been kept under careful observation, and I consider the working to be satisfactory. Special attention has been given to the Sewage Scheme at Upper Boddington. A New Sewer has been laid at Middleton Cheney and additions made to those existing at Chipping Warden and Aston-le-Walls.

The disposal of house refuse and excrement remains the same as in past years, and with the exception of the system at Upper Boddington there is no definite scheme connected with accumulation or removal. This is done by occupiers either on the gardens or on the land.

The Inspector has enquired into and caused the removal of a reduced number of various nuisances throughout the district. No action has been necessary connected with them.

There are no public lodging houses or offensive trades in the district. The Sanitary condition and Water Supply of the Schools appear satisfactory. At Middleton Cheney and Aston-le-Walls the the Schools were closed for a short time owing to Scarlet Fever and Influenza.

A large quantity of milk is sent out of the district for public consumption. The surroundings connected with the supply has received my personal consideration and investigation and I am satisfied that increased care is being given in cleanliness, drainage, etc. No action has been necessary with reference to tuberculosis milk.

All dairies, bakehouses, and slaughter-houses have been inspected twice during the past year and proper attention has been given to lime washing and general cleanliness. My attention has not been drawn to the exposure for sale of any unsound food. No action under the Food and Drugs Act has been necessary.

The housing question has received careful consideration. In my opinion it is against the interest of occupiers to act in too precipitate a manner in spite of the fact that many of the houses of the working classes are distinctly bad.

As only five new houses have been erected in the district during the past year and the population would appear to remain stationary with work sufficient for its maintenance, too drastic consideration of this matter does not appear to be a desirable proceeding. Throughout the district the most prominent defects consist of insufficient ventilation, bad drainage, lack of paving, bad floors, and in a few cases insufficient closet accommodation.

The number of Dwelling Houses inspected under and for the purposes of						
Section 17	...	...	...	...	...	178
The number of Dwelling Houses which on inspection were considered						
to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for						
habitation	..	...	...	...	...	57
The number of representations made to the local authority with a view						
to making closing orders						
	...	...	...	...	...	14
Number of closing orders made	...	...	...	...	...	14
The number in which defects were remedied without closing orders	...					43
The number which after making closing orders were put into a state fit for						
habitation	...	...	...	...	...	5, and 9 at
						present complying
						with order.



Concerning infectious diseases there was a slight epidemic of Scarlet Fever at Middleton Cheney otherwise the district has been practically free from infectious disease. Two cases of Tuberculosis have been notified to me. There has been no notification of Puerperal Fever or any complaint concerning the working of the Mid-wives Act. There is no Isolation Hospital or any provision made for the public disinfection of infected clothing.

Concerning the Mortality there were three deaths of infants under one year which is below the average giving a rate per thousand net births of 58·82. Inclusive of infants under one year, there have been thirty-seven deaths assignable to the district, producing a death rate of 14·36 This is also below the average.

Fifty-one births were registered—a birth rate of 19·80, again below the average. In this district the notification of Births Act is not in force. No births or deaths occurred other than among residents.

The following is a summary of the work carried out by the Inspector during the past year :

DWELLING HOUSES.

No. of Inspections made during the year	...	...	...	338
No. of Cottages reported as unfit for habitation	...	...	...	10
No. in which defects have been remedied	...	...	...	57
Cases of overcrowding abated	...	...	...	3
Cottages cleansed throughout	..	...	...	16
Roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	...	11
Spoutings or gutterings repaired	...	..	...	3
New coverings to water wells	...	...	...	3
New yard pavings	...	...	...	9
New closets provided	...	...	...	10
New cottages built	...	...	...	5

DRAINAGE, &c.

Obstructed drains cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	27
Houses connected to sewers	...	...	...	17
New sewers provided	...	...	...	3
Sewers repaired	...	...	...	3
New gully traps provided	...	...	...	23
Intercepting traps provided	...	...	...	2
Cesspools cleansed	..	...	...	5
New drains to cottages	...	...	...	9
Slaughterhouses limewashed and cleansed	...	...	...	3
Bakehouses	„	„	...	5
Cowsheds and Dairies	„	...	...	27

I am, your obedient Servant,

J. J. JOHNSON.

